

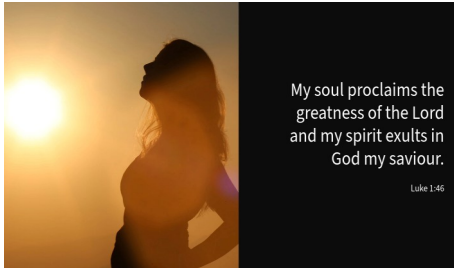


# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



## 4th Sunday of Advent Year C 22 December 2024

### GOSPEL REFLECTION



My soul proclaims the  
greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in  
God my saviour.

Luke 1:46

#### PARISH OFFICE

**Office Hour:** Monday—Friday 9 am—5 pm

**Lunch:** 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed*)

**Telephone:** (02) 4721 2509

**Email:** [enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au](http://www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

**Facebook:** @SNOMPEnrith

**Parish Emergency Number:** 4732 3039

#### PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACON

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joe Manjaly

E: [joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

**Asst Priest:** Fr Rojan George

E: [rojan.cheriyadan@parracatholic.org](mailto:rojan.cheriyadan@parracatholic.org)

**Deacon:** Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap

**Nepean Hospital Chaplain:**

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

E: [Zvonimir.Gavranovic@parracatholic.org](mailto:Zvonimir.Gavranovic@parracatholic.org)

#### STAFF

**Office Manager:** Rodney Howard (M, Th, F)

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E: [reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

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**Catechists Coordinator:** Margaret Wilson

E: [catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

**Volunteer Admin Support:** Margaret Cobden

**RCIA Coordinators:** Allan & Josephine Linga

E: [enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

**Health & Safety Officer:** Craig Walsh

P: 0428 284 568

#### ORGANISATIONS

**St Vincent de Paul**

Hub: 8861 9770

**Catholic Care**

E: [enquiries@ccss.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ccss.org.au)

02 8843 2500

#### PARISH SCHOOLS

**St Nicholas Primary** Ph: 4752 3300

Principal : Miss Kirsty Reynolds (Acting)

**St Mary Mackillop Primary** Ph: 4724 3200

Principal: Mr. Scott Buchan

The gospel passages of the second and third weeks of Advent this year featured John the Baptist in his role of preparing the way for the coming of Jesus; the one who announces the arrival of the Christ. In this week's passage, which goes back to an earlier point in the gospel of Luke, we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognising the presence of the Christ. When Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the child within Elizabeth's womb – John – leaps for joy. At the time of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to give birth to a child, Mary is also told that Elizabeth and Zechariah, although very old, were to also give birth to a child. Mary rushes to visit Elizabeth, not to make sure that the angel was telling her the truth but because the fact that Elizabeth was also pregnant was a sign of confirmation to Mary that she had indeed made the right decision. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb will eventually baptise the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel.

The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love – to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.

#### Gospel Focus – Blessed are you

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.* Elizabeth's greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke's gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

#### Scriptural context – John the Baptist

The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John's birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunner of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

#### Living the Gospel – Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

✍ Greg Sunter

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Image Credit: Liturgy Help 2024

## PARISH NEWS

### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2025 at Penrith

This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

#### Sessions will be held in our Parish

Enrolment forms are available from the **Parish Office**  
or the **Foyer of the Church**

Completed forms **MUST** be returned to the Parish Office for signing by the Parish Priest  
**BEFORE 14 JANUARY 2025**

The Parish Office will send to the Office for Worship.  
*These are popular courses so once a course is full no more enrolments will be taken.*

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION 2025

Online Enrolments	Open: Wednesday 19 February Close: Wednesday 5 March
Parent Information Session	Tuesday 11 March 7.00pm in Church
Commitment Masses	Saturday 15 March 6.00pm Sunday 16 March 8.30am, 10.00am, 6.00pm
Family Sessions	Saturday 22 March, 29 March, 5 April 4.30pm Sunday 23 March, 30 March, 6 April 8.30am
2nd Rite of Reconciliation	Thursday 1 May 7.00pm
Practice	Tuesday 6 May 5.00 – 6.30pm
Confirmation Masses	Thursday 8 May 5.00pm and 7.30pm

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

#### RECENTLY DECEASED:

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:** Amelia Sarmiento, Matthew Edmunds, Jean Cobden, Stanislaw Gwiazda, Anne Bedding, Francis Anthony Jordan, Jonathan Xerri

**DECEASED:** Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettar, Margaret Donnolley, Paul Borg, Mat Maas, Ron Howe

**SICK:** Ross Golotta, Robert Turner, Alice O'Hare, Josephine Magro, John Cluney, Debbie Dunn, Mark Cluney, George Try, Louise Godierie, Kyla Aggar, Carmel Stein, Joe Farrugia, Betty Keavy, Norman Samuelu, Theo Fitzgerald, Rome Michael Valentino Smiroleo, Ralph Beck, Bryan and Kay McInerney, John Cluney, Arren Samia, Cheryl Clark, Zeny Oringo, Noel Bernardo, Christine Court, Baby Harold Francis Eastman Reid, Michael Nolan, Bernadette Tecson, John Slater, Cliff, Carmela Talos, Venus and Shan Cabacar, Ursula Gomez, Michelle Zotz, Aiden Campbell, Mick C, Olive Gyford, Raymond D'Lima, Stanley Mascarenhas, Pam Pizzuto, Jose & Norma Calabetto, Claudia & Alfredo Cabrera, Ric Limjap, Elsie Pajeta, Karen Goderie, Connie Farrugia, Eneliko Tuliatu, Jim Fullerton, Nathan Martin, Wilfredo Alcantara, Susan Voros, Bob Wrightson, Roseanne Shirley, Fr David Catteral, AJ, Eric Nepomuceno, Sabbir Siddique, Thomas Zotz, Peter Gill, Isabella Agius, Karan Bradburn, Aiden Burke, Elwyn Geerin, Susan Wheelahan, Marios Pericleous, Ivan Bracar, Connie Xerri, Maria Nyss, Nympha Miller, Robert Galino, Theresa Jordan, Nad Coder, Herve Rochecousta, Ariane Robert, Billy Downes, Heather Whitborn, Michael Vella, Trevor Rowe, Nicholas Agius, Baby Capri Marshall, Melisa Maiseeh, Tracy Mulla, Lou Doyle, Norm Heffernan, Lisa Sperineck, Margaret Bell, Antonio Malicdem, Jenet Arellano, Marianne Brigden, Nancy Galon, Peter Farrugia, Tadeus Gwiazda, Danielle Kazare, Ting Cecila, Moises Millena, Olga Kiss, Sydney Morris, Thanda Manjaly, Adelia Delapaz, David Wakeling, George and Lena Caruana.

### Mass Readings for 24 / 25 December The Nativity of the Lord

#### VIGIL

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Psalm 88: 4 - 5, 16 - 17, 27, 29
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Acts 13: 16 - 17 22 - 25
<b>Gospel</b>	

#### 9.00pm / MIDNIGHT

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 9: 1 - 7
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Psalm 95: 1 -3, 11 - 13
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Titus 2: 11 - 14
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2: 1 -14

#### DAY MASSES

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Psalm 97: 1 - 6
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Hebrews 1: 1 - 6
<b>Gospel</b>	John 1: 1 - 18

### Mass Readings for 28 / 29 December The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

<b>1st Reading</b>	1 Samuel 1: 20 - 22, 24 - 28
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Psalm 83: 2 - 3, 5 - 6, 9 - 10
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 John 3: 1 - 2, 21 - 24
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2: 36 - 40

#### LOST AND FOUND

The following item was found in our Church.

⇒ Wallet containing Opal cards

If you have lost this please come to the Parish office to claim.



Parishioners and visitors are reminded that the carpark off Higgins Lane is a private carpark for patrons of the New Fortune Palace Chinese restaurant and **SHOULD NOT** be used for parking during mass times.

### PLANNED GIVING

*We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times*

#### FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy Foundation

<b>BSB</b>	067 950
<b>Acct No</b>	100003570
<b>Acct Name</b>	Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
<b>Reference</b>	<b>6029 [SURNAME DONATION]</b>

#### SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

<b>BSB</b>	067 950
<b>Acct No</b>	100001692
<b>Acct Name</b>	Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church
<b>Reference</b>	<b>[ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME]</b>

## PARISH NEWS

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS



We are inviting all children who are coming to the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass to come dressed as angels, shepherds, or kings (wise men).



### CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

These envelopes are available on the pews and at the church doors, please place in any collection basket or bring to the parish office.



### CHRISTMAS "GIVING THANKS" CARD

Special Christmas "giving thanks" cards are available on the pews or at the doors of the Church. Please take one and give it someone who you want to give thanks



### Long Service Leave

Our beloved parish priest, **Fr. Joe**, will be taking a **well-deserved long service leave** from **January 20th to May**. During this time, he will travel to **India** to spend much-needed time with his **ailing mother** and also engage in **spiritual retreats** for renewal and reflection in La Salette community.

Fr. Joe has expressed how much he will **miss all of you**, his parish family, during these months. He is deeply grateful for your love and support and promises to **carry you in his prayers** while he is away.

In his absence, the **Bishop will appoint a new administrator** to care for our parish until his return.

We kindly ask you to **keep Fr. Joe, his mother, and their family in your prayers** during this time. Let us entrust them to the loving care of **our Lord and Our Lady**.



We wish a very Happy Birthday to

**Carmen Vella**  
for **24 December**  
**John Jordan**  
for **25 December**

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Monday 23 December	5.00am and 9.30am Mass
Tuesday 24th December	5.00am and 9.30am Mass <b>10.00 am - 11.00am</b> <b>Individual Reconciliation</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 6.00pm - Children's Mass 9.00pm Family Mass 11.30pm - Carols followed by Midnight mass <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 7.00am, 8.30am, 10.00am, 6.00pm

### MASS SCHEDULE: SUMMER HOLIDAYS

#### From 26 December 2024 - 31 January 2025

Mondays - Friday	9.30am <b>ONLY</b>
Saturday	9.00am mass followed by adoration and reconciliation
Saturday	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday	7.00am, 8.30am, 10.00am, 6.00pm

### Parish Office Hours over Christmas / New Year

Closes 5.00pm Tuesday 24 December 2024  
Re-opens 9.00am Monday 6 January 2025  
In an emergency please ring 4732 3039 or contact the priests.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS ARE READY GO.

Thank you to parishioners and the families from our Primary Schools for your generosity in supplying items to make up these hampers to help care for the vulnerable and needy in our Parish and surrounding areas this Christmas season.



The Parish will be taking photos during major liturgical celebrations and other events to promote the Parish mission and may use these photos in the Parish Bulletin, Facebook page or website. If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Office.

## CALENDAR

Mon 23/12	Tue 24/12	Wed 25/12 The Nativity of the Lord Solemnity	Thu 26/12 St Stephen Feast	Fri 27/12 St John Feast	Sat 28/12 The Holy Innocents Feast	Sun 29/12 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Feast
5.00am Mass 9.30am Mass	5.00am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Children's Mass 9.00pm Family Mass 11.30pm Carols	12.00am Midnight Mass 7.00am Mass 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	9.30am Mass	9.30am Mass	9.00am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass	7.00am Mass 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass



## PARISH ROSTER 28 / 29 DECEMBER

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.**

	Acolyte MATA	Altar Servers	Community Rep	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Music	AV
Vigil	Jenny Hogan Brian Scott	Ann Naceua Llyla Tiamson	Connie Limjap	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Jim Fullerton Jessica Couto	CD	Jordan & Joshua Goh
7.00am	Elenita Sajonia Robert Sajonia	<i>Not required</i>	Sherica Valladores	Margaret Scicluna	Louise Davie Ramon Bru	No Music	Vinita Jobin
8.30am	Caitlin Nepomuceno Remy Wood	Jostick Joseph Jacob Barratto	Carol Wright	Jennifer Letran	Evette Isaaks Peter Nematalla Darlene Streher Mary-Stella Sultana Helen Wakeling	Jeffrey Mizzi	Lesi Nagata
10.00am	Peter Spiteri Jun Relunia	Isaac Spiteri Hudson Spiteri	Margaret Wilson	Dominic Dawson	Kathleen Pemberton Puleiala Samuelu	Billy	Mark Johnson
6.00pm	Rachel Conteh Rey Esteban	Joshua Esteban Francis Obama	Maria Baltazar	Carolyn D'Mello	Carolyn D'Mello Kathryn Wrightson	CD	Rodney Howard

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